Numb. 2.

An Exact and Perfect

RELATION

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Army under the Command

OF

Sir *Thomas Fairfax*.

From the ſixth of this inſtant *July*, to the eleventh of the ſame.

Wherein is expreſſed the particulars of the VICTORY obtained by by the PARLIAMENTS Forces, over *Goring*, neer *Langport* in *Sommerſetſhire*.

Dated at Sir *Thomas Fairfax* Quarters at *Middleſey*, 4 Miles from *Bridgewater*, *July* 11.

Publiſhed according to Order.

London, Printed for *Samuel Gellibrand*, *July* 14. 1645.

BODLEIAN LIBRARY

JULY 7.

AFter the relief of *Taunton*, and our marching to *Crookhorn*, where we rested the Lords-day, *July 6.* Although our long march, and the wants of our Souldiers challenged some refreshment, yet the Generall, and the rest of the Officers, could not with patience endure an Enemy so near us; and therefore the party from *Taunton* were sent for, who came to *Podderton* that night, Colonell *Massey* about *Ilmister*: The Generall seeing it very hazardous to free a passage at *Longlode* or *Ilchester*, marched to *Evil*, thinking to passe the River there, or at *Muddford*-Bridge. A little before our coming to *Evil*, *Sherborne* men had broken the Bridge, which was presently made up; but as it fell out, we had no use of it, for the Enemy quitted *Ilchester*, a Garrison of theirs, and left us free entrance on Tuesday, where we quartered on Tuesday night. Little of moment fell out these two dayes, *Goring* dancing from one side of the River, to the other; so that our Officers that came from *Taunton*, had the more free liberty to congratulate our happy successes; ours at *Naseby*, which was a complete victory, their's at *Taunton*, which was more then a deliverance; for they continually affronted the enemy, took from him 400 Horse at severall times, and ordinarily made bold with their Guards. The poor Souldiers were much afraid, in regard of our delay of relief, that they should have had another *Cornish Hugg*, as they call'd it, but it pleased God to prevent their fears, by this seasonable Mercy.

They lost a Gallant man, Colonell *Floyd*, a Religious experienced Souldier, and Lievtenant Colonell *Richbell*, a stout honest man, and some few Officers besides; some that were hurt, are recovered, as Major *Marshall*, Major *Read*.

This day Colonell *Butlers* Regiment, commanded by Major *Fincher*, Quarter-master Generall of our Horse, came near us, and in its march from *Berkley* Castle to us, did very good service. First at *Dursley*, they entertained Sir *Charls Lucas* coming to beat up their Quarters, kill'd the Captain of the Forlorn-Hope, after that, charg'd the Party with two Troops, kill'd ten, whereof two Captains, took 39 prisoners, hurt Sir *Charls Lucas*.

From thence they came to *Highworth*, where the Enemy from *Farington* had entered the Town, whom he beat out, and delivered to the Governour, the quiet possession of his Garrison. From thence to the *Devises*, where they took some Horse, and so to *Dorchester*, where they over took some of *Sherborne* Horse; and so came to us very seasonably; being through Gods providence, neerer an engagement then we expected.

Wednesday, July 9. We diyided our Force, and overlook'd the danger through our earnestnesse to discover and dislodge *Goring*; but the danger of division was the lesse, in regard that Colonell *Massey* had many Dragoons, at least 2000, and an inclosed Countrey: Whereupon Col. *Massey*'s party, with the addition of Col. *Pyes*, and Col. *Sheffields* Regiments, and all our Dragoons, but one Troop, were sent on the other side the Water, betwixt *Taunton* and *Langport*, to amuse the Enemy, and take advantages, if he might; which he very diligently did, and came upon a strong Quarter of the Enemies about *North-Curry*, took them before they were well ready: charged, took 9 or 10 Colours, 4 Captains, some

Liev-

Lievtenants and Cornets, and about 200 men, and more Horſes, with very little loſſe, onely Col. *Cook* ſhot in the face, and Col. *Buller* hurt in the arm. We were not idle on the other ſide, but skirmiſhed at a Paſſe a mile from *Langport*, took one Colours, which led the way to many more the next day.

On *Wedneſday* night, we quartered at *Long-Sutton*, and on *Thurſday* morning, the tenth, a *Councell* of *Warre* was called, whether to draw up before *Langport*, and do further as opportunity might be, or withdraw toward *Sherborne* and *Evil*, to refreſh our men, and receive our ſupplies of Arms, Money, and Ammunition, coming to us by Sea; but it pleaſed God to end the buſineſſe by an Alarm given us, that the Enemy had poſſeſſed the Paſſe we formerly skirmiſhed at in *Peſſebury*-Bottom, and ſome of their Foot appeared on the Hill: whereupon, the Forces we had on this ſide the River, were drawn forth: Of Foot, *Weldens*, *Herbarts*, *Ingleſbies*, *Forteſcues*, Maj. Generals, *Ruſſels*, *Hammonds*, and *Rainsboroughes* Regiments, with Sir *Hardre Wallers*, & the Pikes of the Generals, *Mountagues* and *Pickerings* Regiments. The Muskettiers of thoſe three Regiments together, with Col. *Iretons* Regiment of Horſe, being ſent on Wedneſday night to the aſſiſtance of *Maſſey*. All our Horſe, but the three Regiments of Sir *Robert Pye*, Col. *Sheffeild*, and Col. *Ireton*, and *Okeys* Dragoons, who were all with Col. *Maſſey*, but one Troop. With theſe, we drew into the Field, about 10 of the Clock on *Thurſday*, and about 12 or near one, we began to diſpute the Paſſe with them; the Enemy had a Hill, and the Winde, we another Hill, they had the Paſſe and the Hedges lined before we came; we drew up our Canon, which did us very good ſervice, and made the other ſide of the Hill ſo hot, that they could not come down to relieve their men; preſently, the For-

lorn-Hope were commanded down to cleer the Hedges, which they did, seconded with *Weldens* Regiment, which was next them.

I need not say any thing of the General and Lieutenant-General, who carried themselves according to their wonted diligence and gallantry.

The enemy had but two Pieces of Ordnance, small ones, having sent the rest, with most of their Carriages, to *Bridgewater*. The Passe being gained, the Horse went on. Major *Bethel* had the honour of the first Charge of Horse, who did it very gallantly, charging a Body of the enemy with a Troop, disordered them; and being over-born with a fresh Body, retreated slowly a little way, to Major *Disbrough*, who commands the Generals Regiment of Horse, where he rallyed, and charged again, and they with him, and put the enemy to a foul Retreat, which they never recovered. Part of their Foot, with some Horse, and their two Pieces of Ordnance, retreated into *Langport*, of which you shall have a further Account presently. The rest Horse and Foot, as fast as they could, ran toward *Bridgewater*, except some who scattered themselves into Corn and Woods for their shelter. Those that went toward *Bridgewater* were earnestly pursued by our Horse, so that moreover their Foot recovered *Bridgewater*, and very many of their Horse, and divers Colours. The General and Lieutenant General having with the Foot neer *Langport*, perceived the enemy drawing over at *Langport*, and going toward *Bridgewater* on the other side of the River. Whereupon, we found the enemy had quitted it, because, as they say, the Governour refused to hold it without 200 men, which they could not spare: and for a farewell, they fired the Town to run away by the light. Hereupon, we marched into the Town with Horse, and some

some Foot, who thorow fire and water, pursued on that side the River. With those Horse went Lieutenant-General *Cromwell* and Colonel *Greaves*, who overtook their Foot Colours, and Ordnance, and three loads of Ammunition, which they brought back to *Langport*. The Horse, some of them, got to *Bridgewater*, some to a little Garison call'ed *Burrow-Church*, in the way betwixt *Langport* and *Bridgewater*. The General in the mean time marched on with the rest of the Foot toward *Bridgewater*, for the advantage of Quarters, not being willing to stay in that wasted place, and came that night to *Middlesey*, four miles from *Bridgewater*.

In this Fight, the whole Foot of the enemy were dispersed, killed, and taken; but few killed, thanks to hedges and heels. What Ordnance they had, were lost, and many of their Colours taken. I cannot give a more perfect account of Prisoners: Two Colonels of Horse, *Slingsby* and *Hewetts-bum*, are taken, with *Berridge* Lieutenant-General of their Ordnance, besides some Lieutenant-colonels and Majors; and, as I hear, about 1000 Prisoners: and this a very cheap Victory, we having lost no Officer, and not 20 common Souldiers, for ought I can learn: Some of Major *Bethel*'s Troop are sore hurt, himself shot in the right hand.

Thus hath the God of our Salvation protected and prospered us, besotting the enemies old Souldiers, that they should suffer themselves to be engaged contrary to their intentions, and in the midst of their expectation of Supplies to make up a formidable Army, directing us by his good providence, in the midst of our irresolutions; His Wisedom was our counsel, his Strength was our Victory; let the praise be his. Our Word was, *God with us*; and he made it good: Theirs was *Bristoll*, which they will make good, its like, and run from *Bridgewater* thi-

thers.

ther. Many of their men came running over to us, being such as *Gerard* had taken prisoners in *Wales*, and entertained; which should make us more carefull in taking in the enemies prisoners: and if it be not carefully heeded, it may be justly believed, that, notwithstanding the Covenant (the frequency of oaths having brought them to a formality, and Perjury being now grown familiar; which it were to be wisht were better thought on) Many of the prisoners taken at *Naseby* we shall be constrained to fight with once again.

A little before this Engagement, Master *Hollis*, the Ambassadour ordinary of the Clubs, came to us with a second Petition in the behalf of those whom Colonel *Cecil* had taken prisoners at *Lyme*; That reparation might be given for the lives of some who were killed, and the liberties of others who were taken; otherwise very fairly they must betake themselves to the adverse party for justice. The General being going to the Field, ordered him to stay at the Quarter, and he should have answer at his return; which, God be thanked, we can give him, with Honour and Justice. The enemies remainders are at and about *Bridgewater*; our Head-Quarter at *Middlesey*, where our Officers are consulting what is next to be done; for that is all the Question with us. *I pray God resolve it, and direct us.*

FINIS.